

**I. Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Original) A fluid-tight conduit connection, comprising:

a conduit;

an end-form block having a conduit passage therethrough through which said conduit is entrapped;

a planar seal having a formed pilot thereon with an aperture therethrough through which said conduit is fitted, said planar seal having a periphery;

a receiver having a fluid passage therethrough into which said conduit is fitted, said planar seal being compressed between said receiver and said end-form block for establishing a primary seal, and said formed pilot extending into said receiver and being sandwiched between said conduit and said fluid passage to establish a secondary seal; and

means for fastening said end-form block to said receiver such that said planar seal is further compressed to complete said fluid-tight conduit connection.

2. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 1, wherein

said planar seal comprises:

a substrate with opposite surfaces and a circumferential edge therearound; and

a rubber coating on each of said opposite surfaces of said substrate, whereby said circumferential edge of said substrate remains exposed.

3. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 2, wherein said planar seal further comprises:

an embossment surrounding said aperture and following said periphery of said planar seal to establish a pre-seal during assembly of said fluid-tight conduit connection.

4. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 2, wherein said substrate is composed of aluminum, and said rubber coating is composed of nitrile material.

5. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 1, wherein said means for fastening includes a fastener passing through said end-form block and threaded into said receiver.

6. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 5, wherein said fastener comprises:

a stud passing through said end-form block and threaded into said receiver; and

a fastening nut threading onto said stud, said fastening nut being torqued against said end-form block.

7. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 6, wherein said fastening nut has a conical washer portion overhanging said end-form block.

8. (Original) A fluid-tight conduit connection, comprising:

a conduit having an end, an upset bead adjacent said end, and a circumferential groove therebetween;

a circumferential seal mounting over said end and in said circumferential groove of said conduit;

an end-form block having a fastening surface, a sealing surface, and a conduit passage therebetween, said conduit passage having a counterbore in said sealing surface through which said conduit extends and in which said upset bead of said conduit is entrapped;

a planar seal having a formed pilot thereon with an aperture therethrough through which said end of said conduit passes, said planar seal having a periphery;

a receiver having a fluid passage therethrough into which said end of said conduit is fitted, said circumferential seal being compressed by said fluid passage to establish a first primary seal, said planar seal being compressed between said end-form block and said receiver to establish a second primary seal, and said formed pilot extending into said receiver and being sandwiched between said conduit and said fluid passage to establish a secondary seal; and

means for fastening said end-form block to said receiver, said fastening means mounting to said end-form block and said receiver such that said planar seal is further compressed to complete said fluid-tight conduit connection.

9. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 8, wherein

said planar seal comprises:

a substrate having opposite surfaces and a circumferential edge therearound;  
and

a rubber coating on each of said opposite surfaces of said substrate, whereby  
said circumferential edge of said substrate remains exposed.

10. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 9, wherein  
said planar seal further comprises:

an embossment surrounding said aperture and following said periphery of said  
planar seal to establish a pre-seal during assembly of said fluid-tight conduit connection.

11. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 8, wherein  
said upset bead of said conduit is mounted flush with said sealing surface of said end-form  
block within a positive unilateral tolerance to create a pinch point on said planar seal to ensure  
planar sealing.

12. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 11, wherein  
said counterbore of said end-form block has a front chamfer therein to permit excess material  
from said upset bead of said conduit to flow therein to ensure repeatability of said positive  
unilateral tolerance.

13. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 11, wherein  
said conduit passage of said end-form block has a rear chamfer therein to permit excess

material from said upset bead of said conduit to flow therein to ensure repeatability of said positive unilateral tolerance, said rear chamfer further permitting said conduit to positively lock to said end-form block to keep said end-form block retained on said conduit during shipping.

14. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 11, wherein said conduit passage of said end-form block has axial grooves therethrough to permit escape of fluid pressure during assembly of said conduit to said end-form block.

15. (Original) A fluid-tight conduit connection of teardrop shape with a fastener end and a conduit end opposite said fastener end, said fluid-tight conduit connection comprising:

a conduit having an end and a circumferential groove adjacent said end;

a circumferential seal mounted in said circumferential groove of said conduit;

an end-form block having a fastening surface, a sealing surface opposite said fastening surface, and a conduit passage therebetween through which said conduit is entrapped;

a planar seal having a front surface, a rear surface opposite said front surface, an aperture therebetween, and a formed pilot surrounding said aperture, said conduit being fitted through said aperture;

a receiver having a sealing surface with a fluid passage therein into which said conduit is fitted, said circumferential seal being compressed by said fluid passage to establish

a first primary seal, said planar seal being compressed between said sealing surface of said end-form block and said sealing surface of said receiver to establish a second primary seal, and said formed pilot extending into said receiver and being sandwiched between said conduit and said fluid passage to establish a secondary seal; and

means for fastening said end-form block to said receiver such that said planar seal is further compressed to complete said fluid-tight conduit connection.

16. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 15, wherein said means for fastening includes a fastener passing through said end-form block and threaded into said receiver.

17. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 16, wherein said planar seal further has at least one tab at said fastener end, said at least one tab being folded onto said planar seal so as to double the thickness of said planar seal at said fastener end, said at least one tab pre-loading said conduit end so as to balance alignment of said fluid-tight conduit connection during assembly in response to otherwise uneven alignment of said conduit in said fluid passage of said receiver.

18. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection of claim 16, wherein said planar seal further includes an embossment, said embossment being of greater thickness near said conduit end than said fastener end to establish a pre-seal at said conduit end so as to ensure sealing of said fluid-tight conduit connection during assembly in response to otherwise uneven alignment of said conduit in said fluid passage of said receiver.

19. (Original) A planar seal comprising a front surface, a rear surface opposite said front surface, and an aperture therebetween, said planar seal further comprising a peripheral surface, a formed pilot surrounding said aperture and an embossment surrounding said aperture and following said peripheral surface, said formed pilot extending in a direction away from one of said front and rear surfaces, said formed pilot further providing a seal for a connection.

20. (Original) A planar seal as claimed in claim 19, further comprising:  
a substrate layer having opposing surfaces and a circumferential edge therearound; and  
a rubber coating on each of said opposing surfaces of said substrate layer, whereby said circumferential edge of said substrate layer remains exposed.

21. (Original) A fluid-tight conduit connection for coupling a male conduit and a receiver block for an air conditioning system, said fluid-tight conduit connection comprising:

a male conduit with an end and an outer wall, said male conduit having a radially outwardly extending annular flange formed thereon and an annular groove formed in said outer wall spaced from said end and said annular flange;

a receiver block having a first aperture formed therein adapted to receive said male conduit, said first aperture defining an inner surface of said receiver block, said inner

surface of said receiver block which defines said first aperture having a flared shape to cooperate with said male conduit, said receiver block further having a second aperture formed therein;

a seal disposed between said annular flange of said male conduit and said inner surface of said receiver block to provide at least an axial seal between said male conduit and said inner surface of said receiver block;

a circumferential seal disposed within said annular groove of said male conduit to provide at least a radial seal between said male conduit and said inner surface of said receiver block; and

means for fastening said male conduit to said receiver block for securely holding said male conduit and said receiver block adjacent one another to engage said male conduit and said inner surface of said receiver block.

22. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection as claimed in claim 21 wherein said fastening means further comprises an end-form block having a first aperture formed therein adapted to receive said male conduit, said end-form block abutting said annular flange on a side opposite the end of said male conduit, said end-form block having a second aperture formed therein.

23. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection according to claim 22, wherein said fastening means is a threaded stud having a first end and a second end, said first end of said stud threadingly engaging the second aperture of said block, said second end



of said stud being inserted through said second aperture of said end-form block and having a nut threadingly disposed thereon.

24. (Original) The fluid-tight conduit connection according to claim 22, wherein there is a press fit between a wall forming the aperture of said end-form block and said outer wall of said male conduit.

25. (Currently Amended) The fluid-tight conduit connection according to claim 21, wherein said seal disposed between said annular flange of said male conduit and said inner surface of said receiver block provides both an axial seal and a radial seal between said male conduit and said inner surface of said receiver block.

26. (Currently Amended) The fluid-tight conduit connection according to claim 22, wherein ~~an~~ the portion of the inner diameter of said male conduit mounted within said end-form block and said receiver block ~~is substantially the same as an~~ is not smaller than the portion of the inner diameter of ~~said the~~ male conduit ~~outside of~~ extending from said end-form block ~~and said receiver block~~.